

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to Board Decision rendered 12/8/2008. It is noted that examiner Daniel Hess is now handling this case while examiner Lisa Caputo was previously handling it.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)

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11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended)

A method of tracking a postage stamp, the method comprising:

coupling tracking information to the stamp, the tracking information including a stamp

ID;

dispensing the stamp to a customer;

reading the tracking information as the stamp is dispensed;

storing the stamp ID in a database; and

further comprising reading the tracking information as the stamp is deposited into a

postal mailbox, and storing the stamp ID and a mailbox location within a database,

wherein the tracking information is stored within a passive RFID device.

Deleted: The method of claim 19,

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24. (Previously Presented)

The method of claim 23, further comprising comparing the mailbox location and the dispensing location, and identifying the stamp if the mailbox location is more than a predetermined distance from the dispensing location.

25. (Currently Amended)

A method of tracking a postage stamp, the method comprising:

coupling tracking information to the stamp, the tracking information including a stamp

ID;

dispensing the stamp to a customer;

reading the tracking information as the stamp is dispensed;

storing the stamp ID in a database;

sensing when an article is deposited in a mailbox;

Deleted: The method of claim 19,
further comprising ¶

determining when tracking information was not properly read for all the articles placed in the mailbox; and

providing a perceivable indication when it has been determined that tracking information was not properly read for all the articles placed in the mailbox,

wherein the tracking information is stored within a passive RFID device.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 23-25 are allowed.

In the present case, BPAI decision rendered 12/8/2008 affirmed the examiner in part. The examiner's ruling with regard to claims 23-25 was overturned. The examiner was affirmed on all other claims.

In accordance with MPEP section 1214.06, those claims on which the examiner was reversed, namely 23-25, have been restated in independent form by examiner's amendment. All other claims have been cancelled and the case is allowed.

Reasons for this allowance are detailed in the BPAI decision of 12/8/2008.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL A. HESS whose telephone number is (571)272-2392. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daniel A Hess/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2876
2/25/2009